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The COURIER guarantees the largest circulation of any paper published in Chariton county.

THERE are many more folks for Folk than ought to be.

SPEAKING of the governor's race—let's talk about something else more interesting.

THE gang of St. Louis gold-bugs, who are manipulating the wires in Folk's campaign for governor, are having acres of fun at the expense of many good Democrats who voted for Bryan both in 1896 and 1900, but who are now licking the boots and doing the bidding of gold-bugs through their admiration for Folk. The spectacle is one that almost wreck's the COURIER man's spectacles.

THE Folk craze still rages. Andrew, Nodaway, Johnson, Ripley, Cass and Douglas counties were all carried by the circuit attorney for governor last Saturday. Somehow or other we are losing interest in the campaign. The people largely seem to have lost their powers of reasoning, but the day is not far distant when they will come to their sober senses. Then they will realize that there are better men and better Democrats in Missouri than Jos. W. Folk. Mark the prediction!

THE nearer Jos. W. Folk gets to the Democratic nomination for governor of Missouri the broader becomes the Republican grin. Folk and the St. Louis Globe-Democrat have been talking very much alike in their abuse of "the state Democratic machine," hence the Republicans have high hopes of carrying the state this fall should Folk be the gubernatorial nominee of the Democratic party. The Globe-Democrat has boldly declared that the Republican party intended to use Folk as its main witness against the Democratic party during the campaign whether he is or is not nominated for governor.

THE anti-Folk fellows have one consolation. Eating crow is preferable to civic righteous hypocrisy. While posing as an unflinching foe of boodling there are several boodlers Folk has not prosecuted that are the worse pills in the boodle box, notably Col. W. H. Phelps, Tony Steuver, Chas. H. Turner et al, all of whom are supporting Folk for governor. Not only is this true, but the indications are that more money has been spent on Folk's campaign than by all the other gubernatorial candidates combined. If Folk is opposed to boodling, why does he permit such lavish use of money to further his political ambition? Echo answers: "Why?"

THE worst thing about the nomination of Jos. W. Folk for governor is that his own mouth will be used against him after the two political lines have been drawn and the contest between the two great parties has been launched. In other words, the testimony Folk has been offering in regard to corruption under Democratic rule in Missouri and the awful awfulness of "the Democratic machine" will be used to the detriment of Folk and the Democratic party should he be nominated. His campaign would of necessity be the weakest one ever conducted by a Democratic nominee for governor of this state, as the party of which Folk is the nominee will be condemned by Folk's own utterances while seeking the nomination.

THE Folk stampede has stampeded, and you had better get out of the way if you don't want to get run over.

A GREAT many Democrats in Missouri have done more for the party than Jos. W. Folk, but Joey seems to be the whole show just now.

W. H. PHELPS was repudiated in Jasper county, his home, and Jos. W. Folk was turned down in St. Louis and in his own ward for governor.

"THE state Democratic machine," so called, seems to be very obnoxious to all Republicans and a great many Democrats in Missouri this year. The COURIER would like to have one or more of its readers define what is meant by "the state Democratic machine," and also tell us what the alleged "machine" has done to pollute the state or pilfer the pockets of the people. Are the boodlers a part of "the machine," or is it composed entirely of the state's Democratic officials? That Missouri has been given a clean and economical government under Democratic rule no one can successfully deny. If that is due to "the machine" we believe it should receive the blessing and not the condemnation of all Missourians without regard to race, color or political affiliations.

THE "re-organizers" in Missouri are in the saddle, and they are not only riding loyal Democrats, who supported Wm. J. Bryan both in 1896 and 1900, to water, but are also making them drink. The gang of gold-bugs in St. Louis, who are running Jos. W. Folk's campaign for governor, are making monkeys of the Bryanites. Not only is this true, but these same gold-bugs are furnishing the slush for Folk's campaign, and they will also control most of the appointive offices should Mr. Folk be nominated and elected for governor. It is through these appointive offices that they expect to get back the filthy lucre they are now spending on Folk. The "re-organizers," alias gold-bugs, are not only coming back into the party, but they are bolting right into the front door without even knocking, and they and Folk are in full control. This is the true status of the case. What are the Bryanites going to do about it? Will they continue to rush pell-mell into the camp of Folk and the "re-organizers," who are managing Folk's campaign, or will they call a halt before they lose their identity as Democrats that stand for principle rather than pelf?

GOOD ADVICE UNNEEDED.

Two weeks ago the COURIER suggested to our esteemed contemporary, the Signal, that it hold its nose until corruption could be stamped out in our municipalities, our state and our nation, lest the Signal injure its health and taint its morals by breathing such "corrupt" atmosphere as it seems to think is now polluting this state.

But the Signal politely refuses to take our good advice for fear it would smother to death before the desired end in putting down "corruption" could be accomplished by the men the COURIER is supporting for governor.

Let's see. The man the COURIER is supporting for governor is Hon. Jas. A. Reed of Kansas City. During Mr. Reed's tenure of office as prosecuting attorney of Jackson county his successful career as a prosecutor of criminals is too well known to need any fulsome praise at our hands. Out of 287 criminal cases that were appealed to the supreme court while Mr. Reed was prosecuting attorney, 285 were affirmed by the higher tribunal.

Has Jos. W. Folk made any such a record as circuit attorney of St. Louis?

Nay, dear Signal, nay.

While mayor of Kansas City

Mr. Reed removed the foot of the Metropolitan Railway Co. from the necks of the people of that city, knocked the aforesaid street railway company's fraudulent franchise into a cocked hat, and had an ordinance passed forcing the company to pay eight per cent of its gross earnings into the city treasury, and also pave in the middle of and a stipulated number of feet on either side of its tracks.

Seeing that the repealing of its franchise by Mayor Reed was imminent, the Metropolitan people elected Bert Corrigan president in the hope of putting a stop to Mr. Reed's fight against the grinding greed of the street railway corporation, as Mr. Corrigan had been Mr. Reed's staunch friend in his race for prosecuting attorney and also for mayor.

True to his pledges to the people of Kansas City Mr. Reed spurned Mr. Corrigan's overtures, and the people were given their just rights, although his action cost Mr. Reed Mr. Corrigan's friendship.

Not only were these things done by Mr. Reed, but the lobbyists were lashed from the sessions of the council throughout Mr. Reed's terms as mayor of Kansas City.

Because about four Democrats and three times that many Republicans in this state have been indicted for boodling, not one of whom Jos. W. Folk has yet landed in the penitentiary, the COURIER is not prepared to believe that our great state is going to the dogs, nor that Joey Folk is the only truly honest man in Missouri and is the salt whereby our beloved commonwealth must be saved.

Neither do we believe, like the Signal, that "corruption has gained such a hold in municipal, state and national politics that has made it an open menace to the life of our cherished institutions."

Just because indictments have been returned against 19 boodlers is no reason to brand Missouri as a den of thieves and endeavor to convince the world that corruption exists to such an extent that "it is an open and recognized menace to the life of our cherished institutions."

In the days of the reign of terror of the Youngers and Jameses in Missouri such Republican papers as the St. Louis Globe-Democrat delighted in calling this "the robber state," "poor old Missouri," etc.

So it is now with the Signal and Globe-Democrat in regard to boodling. They are trying to make it appear that "corruption" has attained such gigantic proportions in Missouri that it is no longer a fit habitation for respectable people.

As to how such pure, unsophisticated creatures like Jos. W. Folk, the Globe-Democrat and the Signal manage to live in so contaminated an atmosphere without holding their noses is one of the greatest wonders of the 20th century.

We should think they would faint from the awful stench and fall over in it.

Such rot may serve to nominate Jos. W. Folk for governor, but can he survive the putrefactive odor long enough to be elected?

How ill at ease Folk and the Signal must feel in a state where 19 boodlers have been discovered in a population of over 3,000,000 souls!

But when it is considered that Col. W. H. Phelps, the most notorious boodler in all Missouri, is supporting Folk for governor, and that over \$20,000 has been spent by the Folk bureau during his campaign, Folk looks, to us, very much like a counterfeit, for the reason that while he is denouncing boodling, boodle is being freely used to nominate him on the Democratic ticket for governor.

But the Signal seems to be able to swallow Folk's inconsistencies and hypocrisy without holding its nose or evincing any symptoms of nausea. The stomachs of some newspapers are quite as strong as Jos. W. Folk's gall is colossal.

# Great Reduction Sale!

Every Department is Complete

Owing to the condition of the weather I find I have entirely too many goods bought for spring and I must have my stock reduced at once. I will give some extraordinary bargains in everything in stock.

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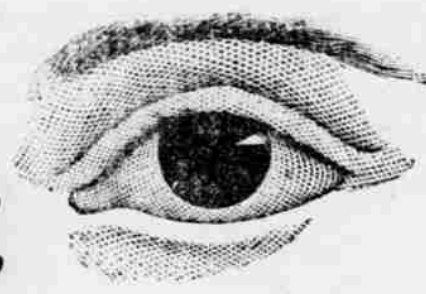
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Phone 138

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